

# Las Vegas News

July 2001

## YWAM King's Kids

### ... becomes 'X-Alt' in Las Vegas

King's Kids International is a world-wide ministry of Youth With A Mission, committed to giving young people and families of all nations the opportunity to be established in a proven knowledge of God by fulfilling the Great Commission.

Established in 1976 in Hawaii King's Kids has seen hundreds of teams minister throughout Asia, the Pacific, Australia, the Americas, Western & Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East reaching out to the poor and needy. Teams have also proclaimed God's love at a wide variety of national and international events such as the World Cup Soccer Games; various Olympic Games; and festivals around the world.

With the arrival last year of Richard (Ricky) Simmons we began kicking around the idea of how to develop King's Kids in a Las Vegas context. Ricky brought with him 7 years of KK experience from his days with the YWAM base in Tema, Ghana where he worked with hundreds of youth over the years. He is very gifted in dance and drama and enjoys sports, these coupled with his passion for sharing Jesus and assisting them in developing their relationship with God made him the natural choice to lead this ministry.

After much prayer and anticipation, our Kings Kids program officially kicked off five weeks ago. Our first priority involved selecting a name which came about as our staff met together to discuss potential names. We felt that the name X-ALT would be meaningful because we trust and believe that God's name will be exalted in Las Vegas through young people, regardless that this place is known as "Sin City".

Many children from the inner city are now actively involved in a basketball team and the learning performing arts. God has blessed us with exciting plans

...cont'd overleaf



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# X-alt

making a difference in Las Vegas and the Nations



Youth With A Mission Las Vegas, P O Box 36606, Las Vegas, NV89133-6606 USA.

Phone/Fax (702) 658-5450 Web: [www.ywamlasvegas.org](http://www.ywamlasvegas.org) E.mail: [ywamlv@attglobal.net](mailto:ywamlv@attglobal.net)

# Mission Adventures Summer Update!

**105 people in the building, you must be mad!**

That's what we were thinking as the last week of June approached. This was our first week of Mission Adventures for the summer and we had the largest number of participants ever. So many in fact that we had to separate them and run two simultaneous programs as our facility and places of outreach could not accommodate that number at once. The teams had many wonderful experiences and lots of opportunities to share their love for Jesus with many.

They stepped out in faith and broke out of their comfort zones. There are more teams to come this summer and other challenges ahead for these youngsters and us as well.

The following is a story of a lady who was touched by one of the teams at an outreach:

"Today as I was driving home, several enthusiastic young teenagers were entreating drivers to participate in a 'FREE' car wash. My car was really dusty and rain spotted so I pulled in. I offered a donation, which was strongly refused. I was told it was a gesture of love and fellowship from God! I'd had a few days of emotional stress and was definitely in need of a spiritual bath more than my car was. What a glorious gift I felt so blessed and refreshed from this simple gesture. Then as I waited in line a young man offered me a glass of lemonade and I burst into tears. I was so moved by these adults and young people and the profound joy they felt. I've seen so much of teenage shootings and gangs and destruction in the news that I thought our young people were doomed. These kids showed me there is salvation for our future. Thanks to all of them for giving me such a beautiful day."



## Street Cafe News...

**There's lots of praise reports in this ministry, but also requests for prayer.**

Each week our Mission Adventures teams and volunteer staff have been getting involved and building relationships with the guests. There's been many opportunities to pray for and encourage the many that come in.

However, the city council has recently mounted a 'Clean up' effort in the inner-city, resulting in increased arrests for any homeless person in the neighbourhood. They have not offered a solution and one wonders if it'll soon blow over as nothing more than a political manoeuvre. The homeless are still around, just walking a little more cautiously, and I'm asking God what He is doing in this, as obviously numbers are less at the Street Cafe.

What is interesting is that over the past couple of months as leaders of the Street Cafe, we have been praying and sensed the Lord was giving us a word that it was a time for 'Change'. As you know our approach to sharing the Lord is through building relationships and sitting talking with the guests in the cafe. So many have 'Heard' and there is such an openness among many to know more. It seems appropriate to pursue this opportunity and favor we have with them..... but how does that look, without totally changing the Street Cafe? The Lord spoke clearly to us about creating a new opportunity for the guests who want to know more about Jesus. Out of a time of prayer, we have decided to create a new 'Devotion time' as an optional 30-minute event they can attend after their meal. It seems that many are interested in discussing spiritual matters at the cafe and yet are reluctant to visit traditional Sunday morning church! We are praying that God would use this opportunity to reveal himself to them as we introduce 'Church' to them!

Along with this, we are also in the planning stages of starting a new Friday night trial-opening of the cafe in addition to Thursday and Saturday day-times. It will be lower key, less food but lots of drinks, snacks and opportunity to receive prayer. I believe we will reach a whole new group of men and women who hang out and work the streets in the evening.

Please pray for our covering and protection and God's wisdom as we lead and step out into new things, and for God's continued provision of volunteers and those who can help with leadership. Thank you.

*...cont'd from page one.*

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for the future! These include weekend basketball games, which will give us the opportunity to present the gospel to the athletes we compete against. Our performing arts program, paired with the local church, will be doing concerts that with God's help will attract the public. This team of young performers will also be going to the streets, hospitals, shopping centers, civic gatherings, pools and malls all with the intention of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

You too can be involved as we need adult volunteers: Choreographer & Sports Director, if you have the skills and the time we would like to hear from you.

Please join us in our efforts by praying that God will touch the hearts of the children. Pray also that Jesus' name will be exalted in our program, and that many will come to him and that God would meet our financial needs.

# a slice of life in South Asia

There's the whistle again.  
It is quarter to eleven at night  
and there is a loud whistle  
every two or three minutes. It

is the guards walking the neighborhoods, letting any would-be criminals and residents know they are on the job. First a lone dog howls and then a second joins in and before long a cacophony is rising all around the neighborhood.

These days we wake up with the pillow a little wet and our bodies a little sticky from the humidity. Once the sun rises the temperature rapidly increases. The overhead fan helps cut through the heat but the electricity also has regular hiccups due to the heavy demand of many people trying to use their fans. (The electricity just went off, I am sitting in the dark trying to see the keypad of this battery-powered laptop.) The promise of the monsoon rains arriving in a few weeks hold the hope that the dry dusty heat of the past few months is almost at an end.

Tomorrow 70-80 people from all over South Asia will start arriving. We spent several hours this morning in prayer and planning for this important event. Those coming are almost all from South Asia and will arrive with hopes of finding practical means for developing finances through micro-business ventures. We call it Income Generation. I am really hoping and praying we are able to strengthen their hope and send them home with some useful skills and information. Most of the team helping with the consultation are South Asian and know first hand the challenge of establishing solid long-term support for the church plants and pastors.

The lights and fan are back on. Only one dog continues his call. Even though the fan was off for only 15 minutes my feet are covered with mosquito bites. The fan is the great enemy to all mosquitoes. This is home now and any small inconvenience or challenge to our sanity is a small price to pay for the joy of being in the center of what God has for us. We are almost fifty now and enjoying this life more than ever. The fan hums on and that dog has moved into the distance. It's 11:15 PM and I'm going to bed.

## D.T.S. Outreach to Cairo, Egypt

**Cairo, Egypt is an amazing place... a place of contrasts in culture and history. And now YWAM Las Vegas has a place in Cairo's history.**

5 DTS students and 2 leaders from April 26 - June 2 had the privilege of ministering in this exotic land on the northern coast of Africa. Since Egypt is a very Muslim nation, we had to be careful how overt we were in trying to communicate the gospel with the people we met. We found that relationship building was the most effective and rewarding way to do this.

Additionally, we spent time interceding for the city and it's people as well as teaching in youth groups and playing on worship teams of local churches. There was something to stretch everyone. We built relationships with many young Christians and saw God place a fire for evangelism and missions in their lives. We had prayed beforehand to be able to impart a lasting work in Egypt, and I believe that this is where we will see it the most.

We encountered many obstacles, from canceled plans to intestinal illnesses among our team; and the usual tension of living in a small group in a new culture as God was working very strongly to change our lives. We were pushed to rely on God as we often came to the end of ourselves. We all grew significantly during this time and everyone on the outreach team made definite missionary plans for the near future. Thank you to all who helped make this possible by your prayers, communications, and contributions.



## need for Prayer

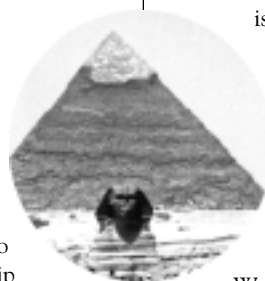
### Establishing a beachhead.

The blockbuster movie, "Saving Private Ryan" opened with a vivid portrayal of the allied troops taking the beachhead at Normandy during World War 2. Whether you have or haven't seen the movie you know that getting the foothold on mainland Europe was the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. In fact the day the allied troops landed on the beach Winston Churchill announced "The war is over, all that remains is the mopping up!" Just as predicted the allied troops moved swiftly from Normandy through Europe and within a few months the war was over.

As YWAM Las Vegas we too need to establish a Beachhead. For us it is a permanent building. In the past few months we have held meetings with the owners of the building we rent to try and find creative financing for us to buy the property. To date nothing has happened. We have just been informed that a school is interested in purchasing the property, in which case we would have to relocate. It

is the desire of our hearts that God's will be done with these buildings whether his will includes us or not. If it does not, we need to find that beachhead in this city. Would you please join us in praying for wisdom in this situation.

We desire a permanent home, and a foothold that allows us to strategically penetrate this city with the good news of God's abounding mercy and grace.



# Fall D.T.S.

**It's time to turn our thoughts that way again from September 16, 2001 – February 15, 2002.**

Once again we have interest from many states, Canada and other continents. Please join with us in praying for these students as they prepare to leave their friends and family to spend an intensive time learning to know God and make Him known. They need finances, visas, passports, the understanding, blessing and support of their families and the faith to walk through this decision.

As staff we need God's wisdom and discernment to deal with each one as a child precious to God and learn from Him ways to challenge their thinking and encourage growth.

## introducing... New Staff

In June Aleida Lam joined our staff. This bright, enthusiastic native of Holland came to us via YWAM Heidebeek (The Netherlands), Idaho, and Montana bases bringing with her 5 years of missions experience. She has worked in many different ministries, offices, and programs but claims her best time so far has been prison ministry and her contact with Native American Indians. Some of her passions are sharing the love of Jesus with others and singing with worship teams.



After Jeremy and Val Sizemore finished their DTS here with us they stayed to become part of our team. They have been married 3 years and come from the virtual paradise of western California where Jeremy was a youth pastor and Val held positions in child care, office work and youth ministry. Jeremy is a gifted musician and worship leader and together they hope to further the kingdom by working with youth, worship, and evangelism. They are a wonderful couple who value people and discipleship and we look forward to what God is going to lead them into in Las Vegas.



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address correction requested

Youth With A Mission  
P O Box 36606  
Las Vegas  
NV89133-6606